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A1  
[regarding controlling the device for the purposes of training]; and

a device controller remotely connected to the user computer, including

means for receiving the device control information, and

means for transferring the device control information to the device so that  
the user can exercise control over the device for the purposes of training.

2. (Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising

a [server/controller] system controller, including

means for receiving access information sent by the user from the user  
computer, and

means for transferring information to the device controller regarding user  
access.

A2  
5. (Amended) The system of claim 3, further comprising

a firewall between the Internet and device controller; and

a [server/controller] system controller, including

means for receiving access information sent by the user from the user  
computer,

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A2

means for transferring information to the device controller regarding user access, and

means for transferring information to the firewall regarding permitting the user to access the device controller.

A3

7. (Amended) A method for training a user regarding controlling a device, comprising:  
a user remotely connecting to a device controller using a user computer;  
the user computer transferring device control information reflecting at least one instruction regarding at least one task to be performed as part of a training exercise [regarding control of the device to a device controller]; and  
the device controller transferring the device control information to the device so that the user can exercise control over the device for the purposes of training.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising:  
the user computer transferring user access information to a [server/controller] system controller regarding user access; and  
the [server controller] system controller transferring information to the device controller regarding user access.

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11. (Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein there is a firewall between the Internet and the device controller, further comprising:

the user computer transferring user access information to a [server/controller] system controller regarding user access;

the [server/controller] system controller transferring information to the device controller regarding user access; and

the [server/controller] system controller transferring information to the firewall regarding permitting the user to access the device controller.

A5

13. (Amended) A system for training a user regarding controlling [of] a device, comprising:

a user computer for accepting device control information reflecting at least one instruction regarding at least one task to be performed as part of a training exercise

[regarding controlling the device for the purposes of training]; and

a device controller remotely connected to the user computer, including

a processor for receiving the device control information, and

an interface for transferring the device control information to the device so that the user can exercise control over the device for the purposes of training.

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14. (Amended) The system of claim 13, further comprising  
a [server/controller] system controller, including  
a processor for receiving access information sent by the user from the  
user computer, and  
a communications port for transferring information to the device controller  
regarding user access.

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17. (Amended) The system of claim 15, further comprising  
a firewall between the Internet and device controller; and  
a [server/controller] system controller, including  
a communications port for receiving access information sent by the user  
from the user computer, transferring information to the device controller regarding user  
access, and transferring information to the firewall regarding permitting the user to  
access the device controller.

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19. (Amended) A device controller for training a user regarding controlling [of] a  
device, comprising:

a processor for receiving device control information from a user computer

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remotely connected to the device controller, wherein the received device control information is reflects at least one instruction regarding at least one task to be performed as part of a training exercise [for the training of a user relating to the device], and for translating the received device control information; and

an interface for transferring the device control information to the device so that the user can exercise control over the device for the purposes of training.

Please add new claims 23-63 as follows:

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- -23. The system of claim 1, wherein the device controller further comprises:

means for transferring reset information to the device after completion of the training exercise so that the device may be placed in an initial state.

24. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

the device controller transferring reset information to the device after completion of the training exercise so that the device may be placed in an initial state.

25. The system of claim 13, wherein the interface of the device controller is further for transmitting reset information to the device after completion of the training exercise

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A8  
so that the device may be placed in an initial state.

26. The device controller of claim 19, wherein the interface is further for transmitting reset information to the device after completion of the training exercise so that the device may be placed in an initial state.

Sub 1  
D1  
27. A method for training a user to operate a set of one or more devices, wherein a client computer is connected to a device controller via a network and wherein a particular user uses the client computer to communicate with the device controller via the network to perform a training exercise using the set of one or more devices, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving control information at the device controller reflecting at least one instruction from the client computer regarding at least one task to be performed as part of the training exercise; and

transmitting the control information from the device controller to at least one of the devices in the set of one or more devices so that the user can exercise control over the set of one or more devices for the purposes of training the user in the operation of the set of one or more devices.

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28. The method of claim <sup>1</sup>27, wherein a system controller is connected to the client computer via the network, further comprising:  
receiving exercise start information at the system controller reflecting a request from the client computer that a training exercise begin;  
determining initialization information based on the exercise start information received at the system controller;  
transmitting the initialization information from the system controller to the device controller; and  
initializing the set of one or more devices in accordance with the initialization information.

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29. The method of claim <sup>1</sup>27, wherein the network is an Internet, and wherein there is a firewall between the Internet and the device controller, further comprising:  
transmitting access information to the firewall in response to receiving exercise start information so that the client computer is permitted to access the set of one or more devices through the firewall.

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30. The method of claim <sup>1</sup>27, wherein the network is an Internet.

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- Cont 5  
31. The method of claim <sup>1</sup>27, wherein the network is an Intranet.
- AS 6  
32. The method of claim <sup>1</sup>27, further comprising providing a result of the operation to the client computer.
- = 7  
33. The method of claim <sup>1</sup>27, wherein at least one of the set of one or more devices is a network device.
- = 8 7  
34. The method of claim <sup>7</sup>33, wherein the network device is a router.
- = 9 7  
35. The method of claim <sup>7</sup>33, wherein the network device is a switch.
- = 10  
36. The method of claim <sup>1</sup>27, wherein at least one of the set of one or more devices is a computer.
- = 11 10  
37. The method of claim <sup>10</sup>36, wherein the computer is a programmable logic controller.



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38. The method of claim 27, further comprising:

reassigning a device in the set of one or more devices to a second set of one or more devices.

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39. The method of claim 27, further comprising:

the device controller transferring reset information to at least one of the devices in the set of one or more devices after completion of the training exercise so that the device may be placed in an initial state.

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C2 B1  
40. A system for training users to operate a set of one or more devices, comprising:

a device controller connected to a client computer via a network, wherein the device controller is capable of receiving control information from the client computer reflecting at least one instruction regarding at least one task to be performed as part of a training exercise and transferring the control information to any device in the set of one or more devices as part of the training exercise.

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41. The system of claim 40, further comprising:

14  
a system controller connected to the client computer and to the device controller

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that is capable of receiving exercise start information reflecting a request from the client computer that a training exercise begin, determining initialization information based on the exercise start information received, and transmitting the initialization information to the device controller for the purpose of initializing the set of one or more devices in accordance with the initialization information.

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42. The system of claim 15, wherein the network is an Internet, and wherein there is a firewall between the Internet and the device controller, wherein the system controller is further capable of transmitting access information to the firewall in response to receiving exercise start information so that the client computer is permitted to access the set of one or more devices through the firewall.

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43. The system of claim 14, wherein the network is an Internet.

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44. The system of claim 14, wherein the network is an Intranet.

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45. The system of claim 14, wherein at least one of the devices in the set of devices

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is a network device.

20 19  
46. The system of claim 45, wherein the network device is a router.

21 19  
47. The system of claim 45, wherein the network device is a switch.

22 14  
48. The system of claim 40, wherein the device is a computer.

23 14  
49. The system of claim 40, wherein the computer is a programmable logic controller.

50. The system of claim 40, further comprising:  
a second set of one or more devices connected to the device controller, wherein  
a device from the first set of one or more device is capable of being reassigned to the  
second set of one or more devices.

24 29 14  
51. The system of claim 40, wherein the device controller is further capable of  
transferring reset information to at least one of the devices in the set of one or more

devices after completion of the training exercise so that the device may be placed in an initial state.

52. A system for training users to operate a set of one or more devices, wherein a client computer is connected to the system via a network and wherein a particular user uses the client computer to communicate with the system via the network to perform a training exercise using the set of one or more devices, comprising:

a device controller including:

means for receiving control information reflecting at least one instruction from the client computer regarding at least one task to be performed as part of the training exercise; and

means for performing an operation associated with at least one of the devices in the set of one or more devices.

53. The system of claim 52, further comprising:

a system controller including:

means for receiving exercise start information reflecting a request from the client computer that a training exercise begin,

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means for determining initialization information based on the exercise  
start information received; and  
wherein the device controller further includes  
means for receiving the initialization information from the system  
controller; and  
means for initializing the set of one or more devices in accordance with  
the initialization information.

28  
54. The system of claim ~~53~~<sup>27</sup>, wherein the network is an Internet, and wherein there is  
a firewall between the Internet and the system, wherein the system controller further  
comprises:

means for transmitting access information to the firewall in response to receiving  
exercise start information so that the client computer is permitted to access the set of  
one or more devices through the firewall.

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55. The system of claim ~~52~~<sup>26</sup>, wherein the network is an Internet.

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56. The system of claim ~~52~~<sup>26</sup>, wherein the network is an Intranet.

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57. The system of claim <sup>26</sup>52, wherein at least one of the devices in the set of devices is a network device.

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58. The system of claim <sup>31</sup>57, wherein the network device is a router.

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59. The system of claim <sup>31</sup>57, wherein the network device is a switch.

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60. The system of claim <sup>26</sup>52, wherein at least one of the devices in the set of devices is a computer.

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61. The system of claim <sup>34</sup>60, wherein the computer is a programmable logic controller.

62. The system of claim 52, wherein the device controller further includes means for reassigning a device in the first set of one or more devices to a second set of one or more devices.

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63. The system of claim <sup>20</sup>52, wherein the device controller further includes means for